

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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-----271105Z 074263 /14

R 270140Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MMOL, MASS, BR

SUBJECT: OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM

1. IN DEC. 1976 THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO CONCLUDE A SERIES OF AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN AGENCIES, INCLUDING BRAZILIAN, FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING MONITORING STATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM. THE OMEGA SYSTEM IS A SHORE-BASED ELECTRONIC AID TO NAVIGATION THAT USES MEASURED SIGNAL PHASE DIFFERENCES FROM PAIRS OF TRANSMITTING STATIONS FOR FIXING POSITION OF VESSELS.:EIGHT VERY LOW FREQUENCY (VLF) TRANSMITTERS ARE IN OPERATION, TWO OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE U.S. UPON COMPLETION, THE OMEGA SYSTEM WILL INCLUDE A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF SOME 60 MONITORING STATIONS FOR COLLECTING OMEGA SYSTEM DATA FOR CORRECTING PROPAGATION OF THE VLF SIGNAL FROM THE TRANSMITTERS.

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2. THE COAST GUARD'S OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM OPERATIONS DETAIL (ONSOD), IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. NAVY, HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS OPERATED OMEGA MONITORING SITES IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BELEM AND RECIFE. FACILITIES AT BELEM AND RECIFE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF

HYDROGRAPHY AND NAVIGATION OF THE BRAZILIAN NAVY AND AT RIO BY THE NATIONAL OBSERVATORY, NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. EQUIPMENT USED AT THESE SITES WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPLIED BY THE U.S. NAVY BUT IS NOW OBSOLETE. LIAISON WITH THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED AGENCIES HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE NAVY SECTION OF JBUSMC, WHICH HAS INDICATED THAT THE BRAZILIANS WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO THE NEW EQUIPMENT WHICH THE U.S. COAST GUARD NOW WISHES TO INSTALL.

3. WHILE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION, THE AGREEMENT WHICH THE COAST GUARD WISHES TO ENTER INTO ENVISAGES THAT THE COAST GUARD WOULD PROVIDE ALL THE EQUIPMENT (A PORTABLE, SOLID -STATE MONITOR AND ACCESSORIES) AND SPARE PARTS, ASSISTANCE IN INSTALLING THE MONITOR AND ANY MAJOR REPAIRS. (THE COAST GUARD WOULD RETAIN TITLE TO THE EQUIPMENT). THE BRAZILIAN AGENCIES WOULD PROVIDE A MONITOR STATION LOCATION, ELECTRIC POWER, AND PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THE EQUIPMENT AND PERFORM ROUTINE SERVICING.

4. THE BRAZILIAN AGENCIES WOULD AGREE TO PROCESS THE DATA RECEIVED AT THE MONITOR STATIONS AND PERIODICALLY FORWARD THE ORIGINAL RECORDINGS TO UNSOD. THERE WOULD BE NO RESTRICTION ON THE USE OR DISSEMINATION OF THE BASIC DATA COLLECTED BY THOSE AGENCIES.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AS TO LIKELY REACTION OF GOB TO THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT, WHETHER FORMAL GOB CLEARANCE IS ADVISABLE BEFORE COAST GUARD BEGINS DISCUS-
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SIONS WITH BRAZILIAN AGENCIES AND BEST METHOD OF CONDUCTING DISCUSSIONS.

VANCE

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